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REDUCTION IN THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE ARMY

A moderate reduction in numbers of Army Medical Corps officers is necessary in order to remain within presently allotted ceilings, the Office of The Surgeon General has announced. The need for Medical Corps Officers in senior grades who are assigned principally to administrative duties is less acute than formerly.

A Board of officers recently appointed in the Office of The Surgeon General is carefully considering the physical and other qualifications of all Medical Corps officers of the various components of the Army and their essentiality to the war effort.

As a result of this Board's study, it is anticipated that a number of separations of the above group will occur in the moderately near future. Regular Medical Corps officers will be accorded retirement privileges under the provisions of Section II, Ar. 605-245, June 17, 1941, and Reserve, National Guard, and AUS Medical Corps officers will be given the opportunity of returning to the practice of medicine in a civilian status by relief from active duty or discharge.

COLONEL MENNINGER DISCUSSES NEUROPSYCHIATRIC CASUALTIES

Speaking before the meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, in New York City, Dec. 15, Colonel W. C. Menninger, MC, Chief Consultant in Neuropsychiatry, Office of The Surgeon General, discussed the problem of the discharged neuropsychiatric patient.

Declaring that the problem facing the individual and communities is unquestionably of great magnitude, Colonel Menninger said that "the statisticians' figures of the number of such men is prone to be interpreted as indicating a much more alarming state of affairs than actually exists."

Colonel Menninger pointed out that neuropsychiatric casualties of the last war were extremely expensive, in manpower and money. He asked the cooperation of the association in debunking misconceptions about the neuropsychiatric and educating the public concerning the problems involved. "We should provide counsel and advice to our federal, state and community leaders in the development of a plan for this group," he said and concluded with the words, "We as physicians, and particularly as psychiatrists, have probably the greatest responsibility in helping GI Joe with a neuropsychiatric diagnosis readjust to his civilian life, and his civilian community to adjust to him."

ARMY MICROFILMS MEDICAL JOURNALS

The microfilming service of the Army Medical Library is keeping Army medical officers at remote installations in every theater of operation abreast of the latest published techniques and discoveries.

Starting with 12 medical journals in January, 1943, the list of periodicals microfilmed has grown to 44, covering the whole field of medicine. These are filmed immediately upon publication. Sent by airmail, military intelligence or diplomatic pouch, the rolls of film are in the hands of Medical Department personnel all over the world within 15 days.

In addition to the medical journals, unpublished manuscripts describing even more recent developments are also microfilmed, and upon request sent to our military medical personnel.

The microfilm process saves approximately 95 per cent of shipping space. One 100-foot roll, for example, holds about 1300 pages or from 12 to 14 journals. Whereas one roll of microfilm weighs about six ounces, the same amount of printed material would represent six pounds.

BRONZE STAR AWARDED DENTAL OFFICER

Captain Joseph J. Shapiro, of Roxbury, Mass., has been awarded the Bronze Star for "meritorious service in action." Captain Shapiro is serving as Dental Officer in a Field Artillery battalion. The citation accompanying the award reads:

"During a bombing raid, on July 28, being the only military doctor in the Combat Command service trains, Captain Shapiro rendered invaluable medical aid to casualties from the six units comprising the trains. After the area had been bombed with enemy personnel bombs, Captain Shapiro visited each unit area administering medical aid, and then secured a vehicle and evacuated the dead and wounded. Through his prompt action, the wounded were immediately treated and evacuated, thus aiding in the maintaining of the high standard of morale in the command.

Surgery of the Hand

Dr. Sterling Bunnell of San Francisco, noted as an authority on surgery of the hand, has been appointed Surgical Consultant to the Secretary of War. He reported to Washington on November 30, and his first tour included Cushing General Hospital, Framingham, Mass., England General Hospital, Atlantic City, N. J., Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Penn., Newton D. Baker, General Hospital, Martinsburg, W. Va., and Wakeman General Hospital, Camp Atterbury, Ind. Surgeons from each general and regional hospital attended Dr. Bunnell's clinics. He will visit the other Service Commands later. Dr. Bunnell's recent book "Surgery of the Hand" is a standard item in the Medical Supply Catalogue.

PROGRESS IN PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL HISTORY

According to a report from Colonel Albert G. Love, historian of the Army Medical Department, plans have been made to complete the medical history of World War II six months after victory in the Pacific. Several officers are now assigned to the historical program, approximately half of them serving in overseas theaters. Most of these officers hold graduate degrees in history from leading universities throughout the country. They were commissioned in the Medical Administrative Corps following completion of training in Officer Candidate Schools. These officers are working on the administrative aspects of the medical service including supply, personnel, training, and hospital construction. The professional medical experience of the Army will be recorded by medical officers especially qualified in various specialties.

By means of this well-manned staff, the history of the Medical Department in the current conflict should be completed within the time limit set by Colonel Love. Previous histories published by the Medical Department appeared several years after the cessation of hostilities. Twenty-three years were required to complete the medical history of the Civil War; ten years to complete that of the first World War. Early publication of the current history will be advantageous in that many of the administrative and scientific advances in military medicine will be applicable in planning for national defense and civilian practice. Thus the things which the Army is learning today on the World's battlefronts -- improved methods of collection and evacuation of the wounded with prompt treatment, better medical and surgical care, the use of new drugs and appliances, control of communicable diseases, advances in reconditioning -- are destined to reach the public domain while the knowledge acquired by the Army is still fresh.

At a meeting of historical officers held in the Office of The Surgeon General on December 6, announcement was made that sufficient volumes would be published to cover the entire scope of the Medical Department's professional and administrative work. Material for the series of volumes is rapidly accumulating from installations in this country and overseas. Colonel George R. Callender, Director of the Army Medical School, stated that excellent reports on missile casualties have been received for the volume on wound ballistics covering several campaigns.

The series of volumes gives promise of being the most complete and revealing chronicle of military medical advances ever compiled. The Surgeon General and other authorities in the War Department are lending full support to the historical project.

GENERAL KIRK TALKS TO MASS. INDUSTRIES

Speaking before the recent (Dec. 1) meeting of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts at Boston, Major General Norman T. Kirk, The Surgeon General, commented upon the fine job industry is doing in taking care of the returning veteran. "The record of industry," he said, "in turning from peace-time production to furnishing the sinews of war will be a chapter in the history of our country that will never be forgotten. That chapter will undoubtedly be repeated in reconversion from war to peace. An important part of that chapter will be restoring jobs to returning veterans."

Emphasizing the fact that taking care of the returning veteran will be increasingly difficult as time goes on, General Kirk said "Approximately one and one-half million men have been discharged since the war started. Half of these have been discharged for medical reasons. When the war is over -- and that won't be tomorrow -- there will be twelve million more men returned to civilian life. That is the over-all problem."

"All of the veterans who are being released to return to civilian life today," General Kirk continued, "are being reconditioned by the Army to take their place in industry and society. They are not soft invalids, they are physically hardened men -- men trained to overcome their handicap and to become useful, productive workers. We should remember that whatever their handicap it was suffered in the cause of protecting this great country of ours from foreign aggression."

ARMY RECRUITING STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

The Army has issued a call for women to become student Physical Therapists. After serving an apprenticeship in Army hospitals, those who qualify will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Medical Department.

Applicants must be women under 38 who are college graduates with a major in physical education or biological science. They must meet citizenship and physical requirements, and have no dependent children under 14 years of age.

Women who meet these qualifications may apply to the Civil Service Commission or The Surgeon General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. for appointment as a student physical therapy aide with a yearly salary of \$1440. Upon satisfactory completion of six months training in Army general hospitals, students become apprentice physical therapy aides at a yearly salary of \$1620, and serve a six-months' apprenticeship with emphasis on the treatment of war injuries. Appointments to this latter position are also available to students who have completed an approved six-months' course in physical therapy conducted in civilian institutions.

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Those who complete their apprenticeship satisfactorily will be commissioned as second lieutenants with a yearly salary of \$1800, an allowance of \$21 monthly for subsistence and an initial clothing allowance. These officers will serve as physical therapists in the Army Medical Department, and will be assigned wherever needed in this country or overseas.

Colonel Bishop Awarded Typhus Commission Medal

Colonel Harry A. Bishop, MC, of Washington, D. C., has been awarded the United States of America Typhus Commission Medal for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from December 1943 to February 1944 at Naples, Italy." His citation continues:

"Colonel Bishop was placed on duty with the American typhus commission at Naples at the height of a typhus epidemic in that city. As coordinating and executive head of its program he directed the training of military and civilian personnel in typhus control, their organization into effectual teams, and the securing of needed equipment and supplies. The efficient manner in which this task was accomplished, despite the lack of trained personnel and adequate supplies, is reflected in the rapidity with which the disease was brought under control. By his forceful leadership and application to duty Colonel Bishop aided materially in alleviating suffering and preventing what might have become a major catastrophe."

Born in Washington D. C., Colonel Bishop obtained his medical degree from the University of Maryland in 1912.

CONFERENCE OF SERVICE COMMAND SURGEONS

A four-day conference of service command surgeons was held at the Office of The Surgeon General (Dec. 11-14). The conference opened with a brief address by Major General Norman T. Kirk, The Surgeon General. Subjects covered included "Personnel," "Problems of Redeployment," "Hospitalization," "Re-conditioning and Convalescence," "Training," "Problems of Professional Care and Disposition of Patients," "Processing the Returnees and Dischargees," "Preventive Medicine," "Major Trends for the Next Six Months," "Supply," "Public Relations," and "Medical Aspects Regarding Female Personnel."

Major General George F. Lull, USA, Deputy Surgeon General, and Brigadier General R. W. Bliss, USA, Assistant Surgeon General, were presiding officers. Attending from the Service Commands were: Colonel R. C. McDonald, MC, 4th Service Command; Colonel W. L. Hart, MC, 8th Service Command; Colonel S. M. Corbitt, MC, Eastern Defense Command; Colonel E. A. Noyes, MC, 5th Service Command; Colonel D. G. Hilldrup, MC, 6th Service Command; Colonel F. P. Strome, MC, 3rd Service Command; Colonel Luther R. Moore, MC, 9th Service Command; Colonel H. C. Moore, MC, 7th Service Command; Colonel C. M. Walson, MC, 2nd Service Command; Colonel J. J. Reddy, MC, 1st Service Command; and Lieutenant Colonel M. J. Marx, MC, Western Defense Command.

Col. Minor Now Service Command Consultant in Medicine

Colonel John Minor, MC, former Chief of the Medical Service, Woodrow Wilson General Hospital, Staunton, Va., has been appointed Consultant in Medicine of the Third Service Command with headquarters in Baltimore, Md.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Colonel Minor received his M.D. degree from Harvard University in 1919 and was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1938 with subspecialty in cardiovascular disease. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association, and is a member of the American Clinical and Climatological Association, the Southern Medical Association and the American Heart Association.

Unusual Bravery of the Medical Corps

The heroic and self-sacrificing acts of many men of the medical corps have been repeatedly noted under Medicine and the War in THE JOURNAL. Feats of combat pilots, gunners, submarine crews, pioneer troops and tank crews are frequently vividly described in the newspapers. Physicians with the armed services are daily performing great and small acts of heroism in the care of the sick and injured. Often their work is unnoticed beyond the small group in which they regularly do their professional duties. A War Department release of November 19 announces the award of the Silver Star to five men, of whom three were members of the Medical Corps of the Army of the United States. Among twenty-two men awarded the Bronze Star Medal, seven were medical officers and eight enlisted men of the Medical Department. Nearly all of the citations were given for the high devotion to duty displayed by medical officers in going to the aid of wounded soldiers in the face of intense enemy infantry and artillery fire with utter disregard for their own personal safety. This record all doctors may share with pride.

-- "The Journal of the American Medical Association"

POST-WAR ADVANTAGES FOR ARMY NURSES

In connection with the present drive for Army Nurses, attention is drawn to the great post-war advantages being gained by Army nurses -- priceless experience that will put them in the foremost ranks of their profession after the war.

In the words of Major General Norman T. Kirk, The Surgeon General, "The Army Nurse is living five years ahead of the nursing profession. She is handling new drugs, applying new treatments and working with the surgeons who are making history in medical circles during this war. She is gaining experience years ahead of her civilian opportunities." The urgent need for nurses continues to be critical.....the Army Nurse Corps appeals to all qualified nurses to join NOW.

RECENT PROMOTIONS, MEDICAL CORPS OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel

DUANE FARGO HARTSHORN, Ft. Collins, Colo.	ABRAM JOSEPH ABELOFF, New York City, NY
RUSSEL HUGO PATTERSON, New York, N. Y.	JOHN WELLONS CLAIBORNE, JR., Dyersburg, Tenn.
WALDO BEATTIE FARNUM, Riverdale, N. Y.	JONATHAN MILTON RIGDON, Effingham, Kan.
BENJAMIN MAX BANKS, Boston, Mass.	EDWIN FRANCH CAVE, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
KENNETH FREDRICK ERNST, Minneapolis, Minn.	FORREST EVERETT KEELING, Portland, Ind.
JOHN BOYD BOATES JR., Glenside, Pa.	HOLLAND WILLIAMSON, Danville, Ill.

Major to Lieutenant Colonel

FRANKLIN BLEVINS BOGART, Lookout Mt., Tenn.	JOHN MOORE HARDY, Gainesville, Tex.
GLEN KEITH FOLGER, Cleveland, Ohio	HENRY HAND HUN, Albany, N. Y.
WILLIAM ALLEN SMILEY, Chicago, Ill.	PHILIP FREBUSH SCHAFER, Charleston, W. Va.
RICHARD BURRITT MCGOVNEY, Santa Barbara, Cal.	ROBERT PAGE ROGERS, Greenwich, Conn.
GEORGE ENSLEY MOORE, Fulton, Mo.	JOSEPH FRANCIS MCDONOUGH, Palo Alto, Calif.
ALBERT BEHREND, Philadelphia, Penn.	MILFROD KEXES ANDERSON, Los Angeles, "
SAMUEL ABE SANDLER, Teaneck, N. J.	JOHN FRANCIS CONLIN, Chelsea, Mass.
WAYNE WALDO CONWAY SIMS, Seattle, Wash.	ABRAHAM SAMUEL LAVINE, Syracuse, N. Y.
HILEN KETCHAM WALLACE, St. Joseph, Mo.	JOHN DANIEL MARTIN, JR., Atlanta, Ga.
CHARLES ROBERT BROOKE, Neward, N. J.	GEORGE PRUSSIN, Brooklyn, N. Y.
EDWARD FRANCIS MCLAUGHLIN, Philadelphia, Pa.	EDGAR MURRAY BURNS, Portland, Ore.
WILLIAM JOHN MITCHELL JR., Alhambra, Calif.	FERNANDO IVANHOE WILSON, Kansas City, Mo.
GARLAND H. PACE, Salt Lake City, Utah	ROBERT LINDSAY Gilliam, Raleigh, N. C.
ROBERT COLLIER PAGE, Detroit, Mich.	JOHN GROOPMAN, Mineola, L. I.
LEONARD FRANKLIN BUSH, Danville, Penn.	BOYD A. B. GARRETT, Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.
JACK R. KARL, Tacoma, Wash.	CASEY EARL PATTERSON, Dallas, Tex.
GLEN WEBSTER McDONALD, Ada, Okla.	MARSHALL KINNE BARTLETT, Deeham, Mass.
LUTHER LEONIDAS HILL, Montgomery, Ala.	FRANK PATRICK GILLIGAN, Ashby, Penn.
THOMAS JACKSON SIMS, JR., Kansas City, Kan.	ERVIN HERMAN MARKUS, Eloise, Mich.
SEYMOUR BENSON, Los Angeles, Calif.	MAURICE SNYDER, Salina, Kan.
CHARLES WILLIAM MCCLANAHAN, River Forest, Ill.	JOHN JOSEPH CHIZIK, Bayonne, N. J.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CARL R. DARNELL, MC, formerly at Fort Dix, N. J., assigned to Supply Service.

CAPTAIN MURRAY E. HARDEN, MC, of Covington, Ind., formerly at Camp Berkeley, Tex., assigned to Training Division, Operations Service.

FIRST LIEUTENANT WALTER A. AKEREN, MAC, of Thief River Falls, Minn., formerly Instructor, Department of Administration, Carlisle Barracks, Penn., to Physical Standards Division, Professional Administrative Service.

SECOND LIEUTENANT HAROLD G. MOLYNEAUX, MAC, of Amarillo, Tex., formerly at St. Louis Medical Depot, assigned to Stock Control Division, Supply Service.

SECOND LIEUTENANT OLIVER J. GWIN, MAC, of Newton, Ind., formerly at St. Louis Medical Depot, assigned to Storage and Maintenance Division, Supply Service.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN B. JOHNSON, JR., MAC, of Louisville, Tenn., formerly at Camp Berkeley, Tex., to Historical Division.

DEPARTURES, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN D. SHEA, MC, of Denver, Colo., formerly assigned to Hospital Division, Operations Service, to be assigned overseas.

MAJOR LUTHER F. DUNLOP, QMC, of Seattle, Wash., formerly assigned to Facilities Utilization Branch, Hospital Division, Operations Service, assigned to Madigan General Hospital, Fort Lewis, Wash.

CAPTAIN CLYDE E. SERVIS, MAC, of Silver Springs, Md., formerly assigned to Technical Division, Operations Service, now assigned to Navy School of Military Government, Princeton, N. J.

FIRST OVERSEAS CAPTAINCY FOR ARMY DIETITIAN

Cathryn Ver Murlein, of Grand Haven, Mich., is the first Army Dietitian to be promoted to the rank of captain while on overseas duty, according to word just received by the Office of The Surgeon General. Captain Murlein was promoted from first lieutenant in recognition of her service while on duty at Headquarters, European Theater of Operations. She attended Battle Creek College and Michigan State University.

COLONEL BRILL SPEAKS IN NEW YORK

At the recent meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases held in New York City (Dec. 15-16), Lieutenant Colonel N.Q. Brill, MC, Chief of the Psychiatry Branch, Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division, Office of The Surgeon General, presented a paper on "Neurotic Reactions in Psychopaths," written in collaboration with Lieutenant Colonel M. J. Farrell, MC, Assistant Director, Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division.

Colonel Brill stated that "although in most instances organic disorders can be differentiated from functional disorders with a reasonable degree of promptness and certainty, a problem which offers no ready solution is the differentiation of malingering from true neurotic reactions."

In conclusion he listed four important points (1) malingering and hysteria, while opposite poles of the same sphere, are clinically characterized by a gradual transition from one to the other. (2) An individual's past performance is the best clue to the type of mental process that is involved in a given functional disorder. (3) While malingering may be associated with any type of abnormal mental state, it is often symptomatic of a psychopathic personality. (4) Careful distinction should be drawn between individuals with psychoneurosis and those who by reason of defects of personality and/or intelligence, resort to conscious production of symptoms to avoid their obligations to society.

Handbook for Clinical Psychologists

A pamphlet entitled "Handbook for Clinical Psychologists" is being distributed by the Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division, Office of The Surgeon General, to all clinical psychologists in Army installations in this country and overseas. The 128-page booklet will serve as a source book of various types of tests which have been found to be of special value in the psychological examination of patients.

National Drug Company Receives "E" Award

For their excellent production record in supplying the armed forces with various biological products, the National Drug Company's Swiftwater Plant at Monroe County, Pa., was presented with the "E" insignia at ceremonies held at their plant.

Representing the War Department, Lieutenant Colonel R. R. Patch, SnC, Chief, Liaison Branch, Supply Service, Office of The Surgeon General, made the presentation speech and awarded the "E" insignia. Colonel Patch complimented the National Drug Company for its foresight in using a non-reactive type of medium for the preparation of the tetanus toxoids prepared for the Army. Captain W. W. Perett, MAC, Supply Service, represented the Office of The Surgeon General.

GENERAL LULL ATTENDS AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS MEETING

Major General George F. Lull, USA, Deputy Surgeon General, was a featured speaker at the regional meeting of the American College of Physicians which was held in Philadelphia (Dec. 15).

HEAD-WOUND GAS MASK NOW IN PRODUCTION

A gas mask to protect head wound patients from war gas has been developed by the Chemical Warfare Service at the request of the Medical Department, and is now in production, the War Department has announced.

The mask is the first such device especially designed to protect patients with bandaged heads, faces, or jaws. It consists of a silk-like plastic hood to which an air-purifying canister and an outlet valve are attached. A flexible window across the eyes provides clear vision. Air is drawn into the mask by the ordinary breathing of the wearer.

The mask is pulled over the head like a sack, and experiments at the Medical Research Laboratories have shown it to be comfortable to the wearer as well as efficient.

Families to Receive Reports from Overseas Hospitals

Under a new plan adopted by the War Department, the family of a wounded or seriously ill soldier is to be kept informed of his condition by the overseas hospital. The first letter dispatched to the family will contain a brief non-technical description of the soldier's wounds or the nature of his illness. A post card on the soldier's condition will then be mailed his family every fifteen days. In return the family is urged to send the overseas patient a "message of cheer" at least once a month.

Improved Food Package for Invalid Prisoners of War

The latest -- and third -- version of the food package being shipped to invalid American prisoners of war by the American Red Cross is designed not only to build health, but to boost morale. Tempting recipes by Miss Jane Spinella of the Army Medical School give directions for such delicacies as eggnogs, custards, puddings and welsh rarebits and suggest how to vary the dishes through the addition of flavorings. Miss Spinella also advised on the make-up of the package which contains dried milk, dried eggs, edible starch, oat cereal, salt and pepper chicken or roast beef, tuna fish, cheese, butter spread, biscuits, peach jam, sugar, coffee, chocolate, vanilla tablets, dates, cigarettes and multi-vitamins tablets. 100,000 of these new-type packages are now ready for shipment.

MAJOR MOORE AWARDED BRONZE STAR

Major Merrill Moore, of Quincy, Mass., former associate in psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School and the Boston City Hospital, has been awarded the Bronze Star for "meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in the South West Pacific."

In commending Major Moore, his Commanding Officer said: "Your service at this base has been of the greatest benefit to the government and to our war effort. Facing an immense problem, in your energetic and ingenious manner, you rapidly reduced the obstacle of psychoneurosis and related disorders in this area."

A graduate of Vanderbilt Medical School in 1928, Major Moore entered the Army in 1942. He is a native of Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO DENTAL OFFICERS

The following is from a personal letter written to Major General R. H. Mills, USA, Director, Dental Division, by Major Paul E. Edson, DC, "Somewhere in the Philippines".

"The Medical service has been praised highly for its front line action and for the speedy evacuation of casualties, thru impossible roads and swamps. In many cases the wounded soldier was actually amazed at the thoroughness and speed with which he was treated."

"I want to specifically mention the work of Captain Melvin P. Lager, DC, of our Engineer Battalion and Captain Arthur R. Plith, DC, of the Division Artillery. Both of these officers left their fox holes in the midst of bursting Japanese shellfire to aid the wounded. Captain Lager has had complete charge of his medical detachment since the operation began."

"Another officer, Captain Nicholas Sanoff, has performed the duties of Surgeon for an Infantry Battalion during the entire operation. So I cannot help but feel proud of these officers of the Dental Corps."

"E" Award to Harmon Color Works

The Harmon Color Works, Haledon, N. J., was presented with the Army and Navy Award on November 27 for its excellent record in the manufacture of stabrine for the armed forces. At special ceremonies held at the plant, Lieutenant Colonel H. T. Marshall, Commanding Officer, Army Medical Purchasing Office, New York City, representing the War Department, presented the "E" insignia, and paid tribute to the excellent record of the company. Captain S. L. Grossman, MAC, Liaison Branch, Supply Service, represented the Office of The Surgeon General.